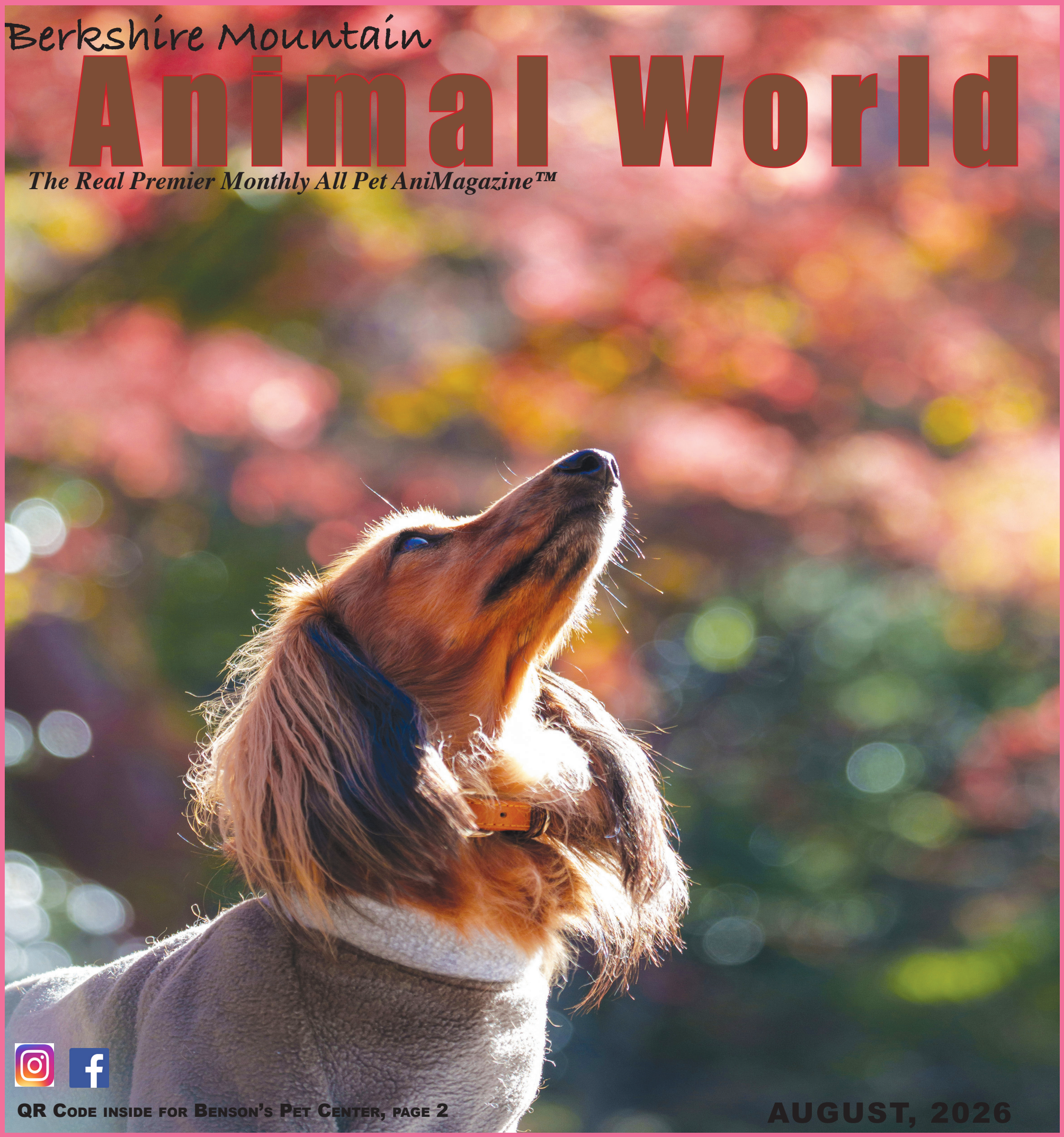
Berkshire Mountain

Animal World

The Real Premier Monthly All Pet AniMagazine™



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AUGUST, 2026

Columbia-Greene
HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Chucker is an 11-month-old Hound mix who was surrendered to us at no fault of his own. He's a bit shy, but he warms up quickly with the right time and patience. Older children who respect the boundaries of a nervous dog are best for him. He cannot live with other dogs, and with the proper introductions, he'd be okay living with a cat.

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• Itchy Pet Awareness Month
• National Dog Month
• Clear the Shelters Month

Awareness Weeks

• International Assistance Dog Week
• Give a Dog a Bone Week

Awareness Days

• DOGust Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs
• National Yorkie Day
• Assistance Dog Day
• International Cat Day
• Spoil Your Dog Day

Give your pets a hug for me!! Gayle

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Year 8, Edition 94

CRATE OF CONTENTS

SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE–Cat Laryngitis, ***page 4***

Pet Hutch-**National Dog Day on Dogust 23red** **5**

Cats Meow-***This Side of Purradise*** **6**

CGHS-Responsibility towards self, your pets and others **7**

Adoptables **2, 4, 6, 9**

Horse Corral -**Mules vs. Hinnies** **8**

Cats Meow-**Sniffing Buts, I mean Butts** **9**

Natural Fun Facts **10**

Guide To Our Local Shelters **10**

***WILD WORLD!*-Foxes in Massachusetts** **11**

Animalectory **12, 13**

NEWSBITES **13**

Rescue Leagues **14**

Dog Wags-**Monthly Breed–Coton de Tulear** **15**

Monthly Dog & Cat Pawoscope **15**

Bensdotter's Pet **16**

TIMELY ADOPTABLES ALL AROUND!

• Columbia Green Humane Society • Berkshire Humane Society
Bark! • Mohawk Hudson Humane Society Bark!
• Out of the Pits and so much more!
Check out our Canine Rescue League Directory

Front Photo

Kojirou Sasaki, a photographer from Unsplash.com. Photo of a Dachshund, enjoying the fall air.

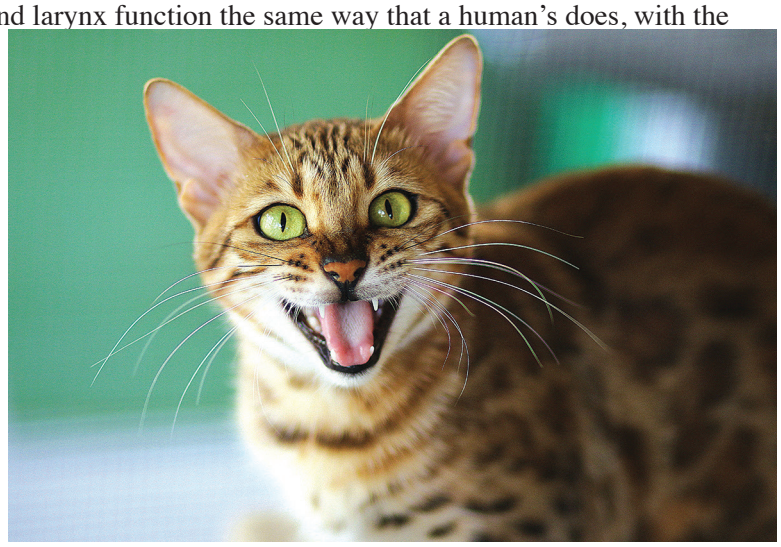
Everything You Need to Know about Cat Laryngitis

Has your cat lost her meow? She's probably not invoking a vow of silence to protest the lack of wet food in her life; there might be something very wrong with your silent kitty. A cat losing her meow is one of the most obvious signs of Cat Laryngitis. Just like with humans, Cat Laryngitis can make it painful for your kitty to communicate using her voice. Read on to learn everything you need to know about this troubling kitty disease.

What Is Cat Laryngitis?

First off, Cat Laryngitis is actually a laryngeal disease that affects your cat's voice box or larynx; thus the name, Cat Laryngitis. Cat Laryngitis usually affects older cats, but it is not unheard of for a younger feline to contract the disease. The average age for a kitty to get Cat Laryngitis is 11.

Your cat's voice box and larynx function the same way that a human's does, with the passage of air your cat is able to create her vocalizations. Some cats are more chatty, such as Maine Coons, while others may rarely speak. If your cat is already on the quieter side, it may be hard to detect her Laryngitis right away.



Cat Laryngitis, as mentioned earlier, is a disease that affects your cat's respiratory system. The respiratory system is a series of tracts and organs in a cat that is responsible for respiration, without which life would not be possible. Respiration is the term used to describe breathing. It involves the inhalation of air and the intake of oxygen, as well as the exhalation of waste gases such as carbon dioxide from the lungs.

Besides breathing, the respiratory tract serves other important roles, such as the humidification and warming of air before it enters the body, the trapping and expelling of foreign substances, facilitation of the sense of smell, and the production of vocal sounds (e.g., meowing, purring). The respiratory system consists of the nasal passages, the back of the mouth (nasopharynx), the voice box (larynx), the windpipe (trachea), the lower airway passages, and the lungs.

Symptoms Of Cat Laryngitis

Depending on the severity of your cat's illness, the symptoms below can vary in degree. The most common symptoms of Cat Laryngitis include:

- Panting
- Wheezing or noisy respiration when breathing
- Weaker, or lost of meow
- Coughing
- Lessened activity
- Fever
- Difficulty swallowing
- Bad breath

What Causes Cat Laryngitis?

Sadly, the cause for Cat Laryngitis is not always known. There can be a number of illnesses and events that could cause your cat's Laryngitis including:

- Paralysis of the vagal nerve
- Infection in the chest region
- Inflammation in the chest region
- A nervous-system disorder
- Abnormalities of the muscles
- Immune-mediated disorders
- Hormonal deficiencies
- Trauma
- Cancer
- Direct irritation from inhalation of dust, smoke, irritating gas, or foreign objects
- Upper respiratory tract infections
- A tumor of the larynx

Diagnosing Cat Laryngitis

There are several ways in which your vet can diagnose Laryngitis. Typically, a blood profile and chemical blood profile will be conducted. When your vet runs this test, they'll be looking to see if your cat is suffering from thyroid problems. Sometimes it can be necessary to run a set of x-rays, fluoroscopy, or a bronchoscopy as well, in order to rule out other more serious diseases such as pneumonia. Your vet could use an ultrasound to try to rule out laryngeal masse, or some vets opt to perform a laryngoscopy to look for mass lesions in your cat's larynx.

Cat Laryngitis Treatments

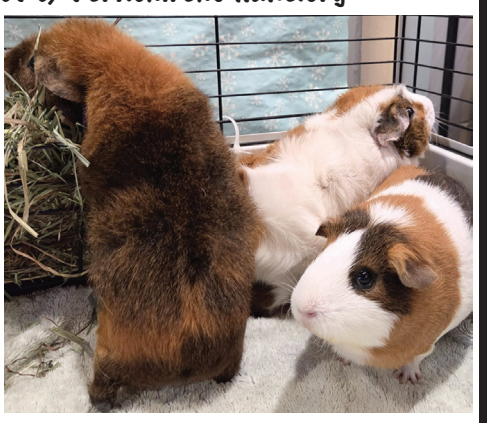
When it comes to Cat Laryngitis, there are several different levels of medical intervention that can help your cat overcome its Cat Laryngitis. If your cat requires surgery, then you may find yourself waiting at home with a sick kitty before her procedure date. During this time, you'll want to keep your kitty in cooled areas to keep her temperature steady; you'll also want to avoid putting any pressure on her throat area, this means taking off collars and bandanas.

A "normal" case of Cat Laryngitis should clear up within a few days to a week. Your vet may prescribe antibiotics to help speed the healing process. During this healing period, you may want to consider switching to a wet food so that your cat's throat won't be irritated by her dry food. Also, make sure that your pet has access to plenty of cold water to soothe her sore throat. You may want to remove her collar during this time so that her throat can rest.

Keep Your Cat Healthy

We know that it can be scary when you kitty suddenly falls silent of starts wheezing and coughing. The best course of action that we can recommend is taking your cat to see a vet to get the care she needs to recover. Each cat is different. So predicting the treatment or cause of your cat's laryngitis can be tricky. Most cats experience a full recovery from Cat Laryngitis with the aid of some extra TLC. *www.petplace.com*

Berkshire Humane Society
214 Barker Rd, , Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: (413) 447-7878, Berkshirehumane.org



Nugget, a tri-color short coat; **Nutter Butter**, a tri-color teddy; and **Leslie**, a tri-color Abyssinian, are just shy of 2 years old. They arrived at the shelter due to allergies and are now looking for a new home to call their own. With proper socialization and TLC, they'll make wonderful additions to a home with adopters who have patience and time to help them understand the world isn't such a scary place. If you think Nugget, Nutter Butter, and Leslie would make a great addition to your household, please reach out to Berkshire Humane Society's small animal staff at (413) 447-7878 ext. 124 or felineservices@berkshirehumane.org.

National Dog Day--August 26th

National Dog Day is celebrated August 26th annually and was founded in 2004 by Pet & Family Lifestyle Expert, Animal Rescue Advocate, Conservationist, Dog Trainer and Author, Colleen Paige, also the founder of many other holidays such as National Puppy Day, National Mutt Day, National Cat Day, National Wildlife Day and many more philanthropic days to bring attention to the plight of animals around the globe and encourage adoption.

WHY AUGUST 26TH?

The date of August 26th is significant, as it's the date that Colleen's family adopted her first dog "Sheltie" from the local animal shelter, when Colleen was 10 years old.

National Dog Day celebrates all dogs, mixed breed and pure. The mission is to help galvanize the public to recognize the number of dogs that need to be rescued each year and acknowledges family dogs and dogs that work selflessly each day to save lives, keep us safe and bring comfort. Dogs put their lives on the line every day...for personal protection, for law enforcement, for the disabled, for our freedom and safety by detecting bombs and drugs and pulling victims of tragedy from wreckage. Now they're detecting cancer and seizures...things even humans cannot do. NDD was adopted into New York State Legislation in 2013.

National Dog Day is against any kind of breed ban. "Dogs should not have to lose their lives because of the atrocities they have been forced to endure at the hands of man", says Colleen Paige, founder of National Dog Day.

While we feel that everyone right to purchase a pure breed dog, we strongly discourage buying dogs from pet stores supplied by puppy mills, backyard breeders, the internet and newspaper ads. Rather, we encourage those seeking new canine companions, to consider choosing adoption first. If you'd like a pure breed dog, look into a pure breed rescue in your city, to see if they might have some little furry soul just waiting to make your life complete. Another great place to find a new best friend is at large chain pet stores that host adoption drives for local shelters and rescues.When considering buying from a breeder, verify that you're buying from a reputable breeder by checking out their licensing, internet reviews and ask for local references such as from a veterinarian. It's vital to educate yourself about the breed you're considering parenting.

"Millions of dogs are killed each year because they're simply unwanted, says Colleen Paige, founder of National Dog Day. They're unwanted because no one realized how to properly care for the demands of the breed. They're unwanted because they were bought as a Christmas gift for a child that didn't keep their promises about caring for the dog...unwanted because they shed too much...unwanted because they bark too much. UNWANTED...simply because someone changed their mind. All a dog wants to do is love you and be loved by you. Dogs are amazing, courageous, sensitive and sentient beings that deserve compassion and respect. Please consider bringing what was once considered "unwanted love", into your heart and home on National Dog Day!"

For dogs adopted on August 26th, National Dog Day becomes many a dog's birthday and for all dogs, it's as popular and exciting as the Super Bowl, with the anticipation of the day culminating into an explosion of network news stories, national TV show segments, online videos, shelter events, internet photos and K9 parties planned around the globe! Even those who aren't dog parents will be encouraged to donate at least $5 to their local shelter or rescue on August 26th.

https://www.nationaldogday.com/about1

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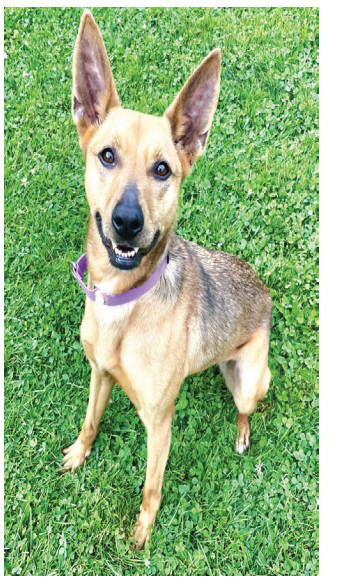


Princess, a six-year-old shepherd mix, an incredibly active girl who loves everyone and would make the perfect adventure companion. She's food motivated, is still working on her house training and will need continued work in her new home. She could potentially live with a male dog her size or larger, but no females, and no cats or small animals due to her prey drive. Princess does have a bit of anxiety and is currently on medication, which has been greatly beneficial. If you'd like to add Princess to your household, please reach out to Berkshire Humane Society's kennel staff to learn more about how to potentially adopt her! (413) 447-7878 ext. 126 / canineservices@berkshirehumane.org

June is a 2-year-old grey domestic shorthair with a quiet and demure personality. She would make a great relaxed companion, no dogs, as she has an easygoing, shy nature in general. If you're interested in learning more about June and how to potentially adopt her, please contact Berkshire Humane Society's feline staff at (413) 447-7878 ext. 124 or via email at felineservices@berkshirehumane.org.

This Side of Purradise

by Iris Bass

Left Behind

Daisy. Copyright © 2026 Berkshire Humane Society

Beautiful Daisy was abandoned by her previous person . . but luckily for her, has been brought to Berkshire Humane Society to be matched up with a more responsible one.

Seven years old (mid-40s in human years), she is understandably shy, and not much is known about her, given the circumstances.

What we do know is that she is really pretty: her gray tabby coloring offset by a beautiful face with golden orange markings.

She may be fine with other cats, so if any you live with may be open to gaining a pal, please discuss this with the shelter's staff. Respectful teens would be okay, too, but no small children. Obviously, the other basic cautions apply: Please keep her indoors only, and at least for starters, in a quiet, calm environment, one without a lot of coming and going of different people, so she can figure out who her new, hopefully longstanding companions are and expect that they will continue to care for her.

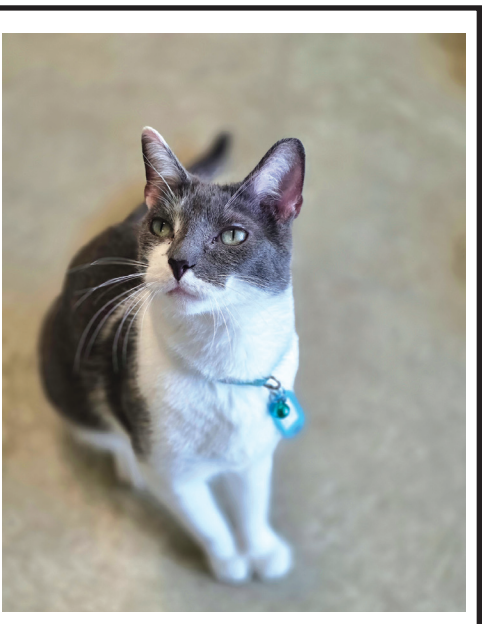
She may be afraid of her new surroundings, so a soft kitty bed, perhaps by a well-screened window, would be an attractive spot for her to snuggle for alone time or bird-watching. As far as touch is concerned, start slowly, seeing how she does with a warm stroke or whether she opts, herself, to come to you and solicit together time near or on you. Without knowing her relationship with whoever abandoned her, let her show you what she needs emotionally from you. Speak to her with the same, repeated words to identify meals, places in your home, the names of people who may share the space; even just talk, so she identifies your voice with your presence when you are in another room. Try to keep to the same routines at certain times, especially if you leave your home, say, to go to work, and greet her when you return so that she knows to expect you to come back.

She's young enough to enjoy toys—a few, cat-safe stuffed animals might become her best buddies. But most of all, she need to bond with YOU, so try to make yourself as available as possible, even if just quietly sharing the same room, so she can rest assured that she—and you—are a keeper!

Iris Bass, coauthor of the Cat Lover's Daily Companion, shares her Lee home with two shelter cats. Please contact Berkshire Humane Society's main shelter at 214 Barker Road, Pittsfield, MA, 413-447-7878. Confirm its hours before heading over, or check out https//:berkshirehumane.org to read more about Daisy, or the other cats currently available for adoption there or at Purradise, 301 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA, 413-717-4244. Purradise is open for both adoptions and boarding. Please respect any COVID-19 protocols that may be in place at either shelter.

Columbia-Greene
HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Butter is a 5 year old domestic shorthair who was transferred to us from another shelter. He's very active and would benefit from a home that has plenty of time for play. He doesn't care much for other cats, so a house with no other cats or another independent cat would be best for him.



Please call with any questions.

125 Humane Society Rd, Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-6044

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https://cghs.org/

FARM SANCTUARIES (In our region)

• Chatham Animal Haven
P.O. Box 49, Chatham , NY 12037
518-218-6885
Chathamanimalhaven@gmail.com
http://chathamanimalhaven.org/

• Berkshire Farm Sanctuary
34 West Main Rd., Peru, MA 01235
413-344-7433
info@berkshirefarmsanctuary.org
https://berkshirefarmsanctuary.org

• Farm Sanctuary
3150 Aikens Rd, Watkins Glen, NY 14891
607-583-2225, experience@farmsanctuary.org
https://www.farmsanctuary.org

• Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary
254 Gardner Hollow Rd, Poughquag, NY 12570
845-724-5138 to schedule a visit
safehavenfarmsanctuary@gmail.com
https://safehavenfarmsanctuary.org

• Woodstock Farm Sanctuary
2 Rescue Rd, High Falls, NY 12440
845-247-5700 info@woodstocksanctuary.org
https://woodstocksanctuary.org/

Columbia-Greene
HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Soft Paws

By Guest Columnist Aaron Clause

Many people are unsure of what to do when an animal issue arises unexpectedly. This guide will help you know where to turn when you have questions and concerns. This is not an "official" guide; rather, it is helpful information I have gathered and share regularly with over 35 years of combined work experience in animal sheltering and dog control.

Before I get into what should happen when you come across an animal that doesn't belong to you, let's first start by becoming the model:

Responsibilities of All Pet Owners

• Your pet dog, cat, or ferret must be vaccinated for rabies, by law.
• Your dog must be licensed at your local Town or City Hall, by law.
• You must take care of your pet's health and veterinary needs, by law.
• You cannot let your dog off leash to run free off your own property, by law.

Now for some common scenarios, hopefully to answer questions that could easily arise.

My Pet Is Lost

For any lost pets, it is a good idea to call your Animal/Dog Control Officer (ACO/DCO) and local law enforcement agencies to report your missing pet. While ACOs and DCOs will usually inform you that they only pick up lost dogs, ACOs and DCOs may receive reports of other animals that others have found, and communication is key to reuniting with your lose pet. Who knows, they may be in possession of your lost dog and hopeful to return it to you! A list of local DCOs will be provided in the next column at the end of this guide.

I Found A Lost Dog/Cat

Report what you've found to your local ACO/DCO and local law enforcement agencies. Follow their instructions on what to do. If the animal is a dog, try to contain it as best as you can without putting yourself at risk of injury. When your ACO/DCO comes to receive it, you must turn it over to them so that they can take it into protective custody until an owner shows up. If the animal is a cat, you can try to call a local shelter or rescue organization, who may request assistance in getting the cat to safety. Do whatever you feel you can to help, but follow their instructions.

It is always in your best interest to let authorities handle a lost dog or cat. You may be held liable for what happens to any animals in your custody.

I Found an Injured Dog/Cat

DO NOT go near it. Injured animals will frequently try to defend themselves by biting or scratching. Contact law enforcement immediately and report the injured animal, and if they request it, try to stay with the animal until law enforcement arrives. If the animal is a dog, contact your ACO/DCO also. Do your best to follow the instructions of the authorities until they arrive without making contact with the animal.

In the rare instance where a dog or cat is hurt and in immediate danger and must be moved immediately, find a blanket, coat, tarp, or anything to reduce your exposure to danger, cover the animal as fully as possible, and move it just enough to be out of harm's way. Then, immediately follow the steps above.

I Know Of Animals Being Neglected, Abused, or Abandoned

Contact your local law enforcement agency immediately. Local law enforcement MUST begin an investigation before any individual or organization can get involved. They will contact other organizations or individuals to help them secure animals in danger as necessary.

I Need To Surrender My Animal

Contact a local animal shelter or rescue group that receives the type of animal you have to surrender. Understand that almost all shelters and rescues accept animals by appointment only to make sure they have space available. Be patient and prepared to wait until they have an opening. Follow their policies. Local shelters and rescues will be listed at the end of this guide in the next column.

Next week, we will push through the rest of my help categories, as well as give you a list of that all-important contact information!

Aaron Clause is an Administrative Assistant at the Columbia Greene Humane Society. He may be contacted at cghsaaron@gmail.com.

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HORSE CORRAL

Equine Care during the Summer

By Alex Valverde, Equine Advocates Communications Manager

Babe, a rescued mule at Equine Advocates.

Mules vs. Hinnies – What's the Difference?

Mules are known as the "forgotten equine," since horses, donkeys, and ponies tend to get more attention. However, there's another equine that is even less known than the mule – the hinny. Like the mule, the hinny is a crossbreed of a horse and a donkey. While they have similar parents, there are several differences in appearance and personality.

Appearance and Physical Traits

A mule is the offspring of a male donkey, or jack, and a female horse, or mare. Like donkeys, mules have long ears and short manes, but their height and body shape more closely resemble horses. However, their muscle composition is different from that of horses. Mules have smoother muscles, and while both are very strong, mules have greater physical strength for their size and more endurance. They're often used for work, like pulling farm equipment or hauling.

Hinnies, however, are the offspring of a female donkey, or jenny, and a male horse, or stallion. They tend to be smaller than mules and have physical features that more closely resemble horses, like shorter ears and lighter heads. However, their hooves are relatively small, more like a donkey's.

Both mules and hinnies have the same vocalization that sounds like a mix between a donkey's bray and a horse's whinny.

Behavior and Temperament

Mules get their intelligence and patience from their donkey sire and courage from their horse dam. While the phrase 'stubborn as a mule' is well-known, it's not necessarily true. As animals with high intelligence, mules have a strong sense of self-preservation, which can sometimes be mistaken for stubbornness. They respond well to kindness and patience from humans.

Hinnies tend to be more cautious and reserved, a trait they get from their donkey mothers. While mules can be bolder, hinnies are often calmer and less reactive. By comparison, this makes hinnies great companion animals.

When it comes to bonding with pasture mates, mules often find it easier to befriend horses and behave like them, while hinnies prefer the company of donkeys. This difference in behavior can stem from their experiences as foals receiving care from their horse and donkey mothers, respectively.

Breeding

Mules are more common than hinnies because female horses are more fertile and accepting of donkey mates. Breeding hinnies is more of a challenge because of size mismatches and a lack of natural mating behavior between stallions and jennies. Creating hinny offspring usually requires human intervention in a controlled environment.

Both mules and hinnies cannot produce offspring. This is because they have 63 chromosomes, a mixture of a horse's 64 chromosomes and a donkey's 62 chromosomes. Since mules and hinnies have an odd number, their chromosomes can't pair up properly and create successful embryos.

Similarities

Both mules and hinnies benefit from hybrid vigor, which describes the biological phenomenon where the offspring of two genetically distinct parents have enhanced traits. Mules and hinnies have strong immune systems, which makes them great at fighting off illness. Although they are susceptible to the same diseases as horses or donkeys, they tend to become sick less often. Both animals also have good strength and endurance.

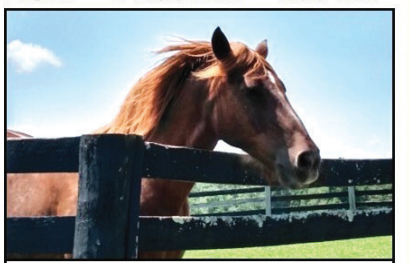
Through our decades of rescue work, we've never brought a hinny to our sanctuary, showing just how rare they are compared to mules. So, if you ever get the chance to meet one, soak in the moment and admire their exceptional qualities.

EQUINE ADVOCATES

Equine Advocates
Rescue & Sanctuary
3212 State Route 66, Valatie, NY
equineadvocates.org 518-392-0175

2026 OPEN DAY SCHEDULE 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, May 3
Saturday, June 6
Saturday, July 18
Saturday, August 22
Saturday, September 26
Saturday, October 17
Sunday, November 8



Come meet gorgeous Connor, PMU Offspring

Why Do Dogs Sniff Butts? Is This Normal?

Consider it canine small talk

It turns out there's a very good reason your dog has a unique communication style.

"Brief butt sniffing is a normal part of canine communication and can help dogs gather information in a way that feels natural to them," says Colleen Guilfoyle, DVM, a veterinarian at Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah.

During a typical greeting, each dog briefly sniffs the other's rear end, usually for just a few seconds. Think of this butt-sniffing ritual as a handshake, quick small talk, and a background check all rolled into one.

So, why exactly do dogs do this? There are a few key reasons.

Dogs Use Scent to Investigate the World

Dogs rely heavily on scent to gather information about the world around them. And it's no wonder—while humans have about six million scent receptors, dogs can have up to 300 million, giving them an extraordinary ability to detect and interpret smells.

Dogs also have a specialized scent-detecting structure inside their nasal cavity called Jacobson's organ, which helps them detect chemical signals, particularly pheromones. These chemical messages provide dogs with important social information and cues about other dogs, explains Vanessa Spano, DVM, DACVB, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist at Schwarzman Animal Medical Center in New York City.

So while a butt sniff may seem like an awkward introduction by human standards, for dogs, it's the fastest and most effective way to learn about another pup.

The Rear End Is Packed With Scent Information

Why do dogs sniff butts in particular? Why not the ears or paws? Simply put, the rear end is one of the most information-rich—and yes, stinkiest—parts of the body.

Dogs have two small anal glands (aka anal sacs) located just inside the anus. The walls of these sacs are lined with sweat and oil glands that produce a strong-smelling secretion containing pheromones and other chemical signals, Dr. Spano explains. This scent is unique to each dog and plays an important role in canine communication.

Because so much scent information is concentrated around the rear end, dogs often head straight there when meeting another dog. In just a few seconds, they can gather far more information than they could by sniffing another part of the body.

It Helps Dogs Decide What to Do Next

Once a dog has gathered all that scent information, they can decide how they feel about their new friend.

The response generally falls into one of three categories: "I like this dog," "I don't care about this dog," or "I don't like this dog," Dr. Spano notes.
A dog who likes what they smell may display friendly body language, such as: A wagging tail, a play bow, ot bouncy, excited movements.

If they're indifferent, they may simply lose interest and move on.
And if they don't like what they smell, they might:
Create distance, show signs of stress and in some cases, react defensively.

What Info Does a Dog Get From Sniffing Another Dog's Butt?

Here are the top things dogs may learn from a quick sniff.

Identity and Social Information

Just as humans recognize familiar faces, dogs recognize familiar scents. A quick butt sniff can help them identify another dog and determine whether they're greeting an old friend or meeting a new pup for the first time.

This ability also helps dogs keep track of the other dogs in their area, including those they regularly encounter in the neighborhood, on their favorite walking routes, or at the local dog park.

Gender and Reproductive Status

A butt sniff can help a dog determine whether another dog is male or female and if they've been spayed or neutered.

Emotional State

Because emotions can influence the chemical signals that animals release, dogs can

pick up on scent cues that hint at another dog's mood. A few whiffs may help a dog determine whether another dog is feeling calm, stressed, or excited.

General Health Information

While a butt sniff won't provide a full medical history, it may alert a dog that something is different or unusual, such as a health issue or increased stress levels.

Why Do Some Dogs Sniff Butts More Than Others?

Butt sniffing is a normal canine behavior. However, some dogs may be content with a quick sniff, while others seem determined to conduct a full background check.
Here are a few types of dogs that may be especially interested in gathering the details:

Dogs Who Aren't Spayed or Neutered

They're gathering information about reproductive status and whether the other dog could be a potential mate. This behavior may be particularly noticeable in males when female dogs are nearby.

Confident Dogs

Confident, social dogs may be more likely to approach and investigate unfamiliar dogs. On the other hand, dogs who are fearful or anxious may be less interested in social interactions and more likely to avoid close contact, Dr. Spano notes.

Young Dogs

Puppies and other young dogs are still learning canine etiquette and exploring their environment, so they may be more fixated on sniffing than senior dogs.

Should I Stop My Dog From Sniffing Other Dogs' Butts?

In most situations, Dr. Guilfoyle says there's no reason to stop the behavior, as long as the interaction appears relaxed and mutual.

"Allowing appropriate sniffing opportunities can support confidence, reduce frustration, and help dogs interact more comfortably with their environment," she explains.

However, not every dog enjoys being approached by unfamiliar dogs, so pet parents should pay attention to the body language of both dogs. If either dog seems uncomfortable, such as repeatedly moving away, tucking their tail, growling, or showing other signs of stress, it's a good idea to create some space.

Keep your pup on a properly fitted harness and leash when meeting unfamiliar dogs so you can guide them away if the greeting stops feeling friendly. Written by *Katie Koschalk, www.petplace.com*

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Natural Fun Facts

FOXES

- Red foxes (Vulpes vulpes fulva) and gray foxes thrive across the Northeast. The use Earth's magnetic field to hunt.
- Foxes aren't bothered by the cold.
- Foxes don't hibernate.
- Foxes have extraordinary hearing
- Research suggests foxes decrease the spread of Lyme Disease.
- Foxes can make over 40 different vocalizations.
- A group of foxes is called a Skulk.
- They are the most wide-spread land carnivores in the world.

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WILD WORLD!

Red and gray foxes in Massachusetts

The red fox and gray fox, two distinct species, are common and abundant in Massachusetts. Both species can be found throughout the state, except on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Foxes belong to the dog family Canidae, and their appearance is similar to that of domestic dogs and coyotes.

Description

The red fox is the most widespread carnivore species in the world ranging across the entire Northern Hemisphere. They measure about 35–40 inches from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Adults typically weigh 7–15 pounds, but may appear heavier. They are recognized by their reddish coat and black "leg-stockings." Red is the most common coat color, but individuals may vary from light yellow to a deep auburn red to a frosted black. The white tip on the tail distinguishes this fox from other species at any age. Similar to cats, red foxes have vertical pupils which help to enhance night vision for hunting. The gray fox is often confused with the red fox because of the rusty-red fur on its ears, ruff, and neck. The overall coloration is gray, with the darkest color extending in a stripe along the top of the back down to the end of the tail. The belly, throat, and chest are whitish. The gray fox appears smaller than the red fox, but the shorter legs and stockier body are deceptive. Compared to the red fox, the gray fox has a shorter muzzle and shorter ears, as well as oval pupils. They measure about 31–44 inches in total length and weigh 7–13 pounds. Gray foxes are one of only two canid species in the world that can climb trees thanks to their hook-shaped claws. They will climb trees to escape predators and to access arboreal food sources.

Life history

Both species of foxes breed mid-January to late February and begin to prepare dens during this time. A den is typically a burrow in the earth, 15 to 20 feet long, and usually located on the side of a knoll, but foxes may also set up dens in or under outbuildings, in rock crevices, or, in the case of the gray, even in trees. Dens may have several entrances. Sometimes foxes dig their own dens, but more often they will enlarge the tunnels of small burrowing animals such as woodchucks and skunks. The single, annual litter is born after a gestation period of 53 days. A litter of 4 pups is common. The young leave the den for the first time about a month after birth. The mother gradually weans them, and by 3 months of age, they are learning to hunt on their own. The family unit endures until autumn, at which time it breaks up and each animal becomes independent.

Food, habits, and habitat

Both the red fox and gray fox are omnivorous. They are opportunistic feeders and their primary foods include small rodents, squirrels, rabbits, birds, eggs, insects, vegetation, fruit, and dead animals. Foxes cache excess food when hunting and foraging are good. They return to these storage sites and have been observed digging up a cache, inspecting it, and reburying it in another spot. Foxes are quite vocal, having a large repertoire of howls, barks, and whines. Foxes are usually shy and wary, but they are also curious. Activity is variable; foxes may be active night or day, and sightings at dusk or dawn are common. They remain active all year and do not hibernate. Foxes actively maintain territories that may vary in size from 2 to 7 square miles. Territories are shared by mated pairs and their immature pups, but are actively defended from non-related foxes. Red

foxes can be found in a variety of habitat types, but prefer areas where different habitats—forests, fields, orchards and brush lands—blend together. Gray foxes also prefer a landscape mosaic, but will thrive in dense northern hardwood and mixed forests where they often inhabit thickets and swamps. Foxes typically use the transitional areas between habitat types for most of their activities.

Tips for residents

Foxes can thrive close to humans in suburban and urban areas. They require only a source of food, water, and cover. If you want to make your property less attractive to foxes and avoid having any problems with these small predators, follow these basic practices. Remember, share these tips with your neighbors; your efforts will be futile if neighbors provide food or shelter for foxes.

Don't feed or pet foxes

Feeding, whether direct or indirect, can cause foxes to act tame and over time, may lead to bold behavior. Foxes that rely on natural food items remain wild and wary of humans. Secure your garbage in tough plastic containers with tight-fitting lids and keep in secure buildings when possible. Take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled, not the previous night. Keep compost in secure, vented containers.

Close off crawl spaces

Foxes will use areas under porches and sheds for resting and raising young. Close these areas off to prevent animals from using them.

Keep bird feeder areas clean

Use feeders designed to keep seed off the ground, as the seed attracts many small mammals foxes prey upon. Remove feeders if foxes are regularly seen around your yard.

Don't let foxes intimidate you

Don't hesitate to scare or threaten foxes with loud noises, bright lights, or water sprayed from a hose.
Cut back brushy edges. These areas provide prime cover for foxes and their prey.
Protect livestock. Keep livestock such as rabbits and chickens in secure enclosures that prevent entry from above and below.

Pet owners

Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, foxes can view cats as potential food. For the safety of your pets, keep them leashed at all times. Additionally, feed your pets indoors. Outdoor feeding can attract many wild animals. Foxes are important and valuable natural resources in Massachusetts. They are classified as furbearer species, for which regulated hunting seasons and management programs have been established.

If you are experiencing problems with foxes or have questions, contact your nearest MassWildlife office.
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-foxes?

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COLUMBIA GREENE HUMANE SOCIETY NEWSBITES

PICNIC

The Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA (CGHS/SPCA) will be holding its annual Summer Paw Picnic on Saturday, August 29, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the beautiful Locust Hill Barn, located at 5 Stockport Road, Ghent, New York.

Join us for a benefit for
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CGHS/SPCA will be hosting a silent auction, as well as its popular "Bucket of Cheer" Raffle, featuring an assortment of local wines, liquors, and craft beer. There will be crafts for kids and a wood carving demonstration by The Catskill Carver, Tom Morrissey. Guests can enjoy a delicious catered meal from Old Daley of Troy, along with craft beers available for purchase from Storybrook Hollow Brewery of Cairo, then spend the afternoon getting to know some of the shelter's adoptable dogs as they mingle and socialize with guests. We're excited to welcome back Brian Robinson of Robinson Wildlife Lectures for a special wildlife presentation. This returning favorite is known for its engaging and educational wildlife demonstrations. Guests will get up close and personal with a variety of live animals during this one-of-a-kind show that blends education, conservation, and entertainment.

Tickets are $20 for adults and free for children twelve and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and all proceeds from the Summer Paw Picnic admissions will benefit CGHS/SPCA by supporting shelter operations, rescue efforts, veterinary care, and rehoming services for animals in need.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA (CGHS/SPCA) is proud to announce that it has successfully reached its $40,000 fundraising goal for a new emergency backup generator, thanks to the incredible generosity of its supporters.

CGHS/SPCA extends its heartfelt gratitude to every individual, business, and organization that contributed to the campaign. Every donation, regardless of size, played an important role in making this project possible and helping to safeguard the thousands of animals cared for by the shelter each year.

The new generator will provide reliable emergency power for years to come, ensuring the continued operation of animal housing areas, medical equipment, refrigeration systems, communications infrastructure, and other essential services during power outages.

The names of all donors who contributed $1,000 or more will be permanently recognized on a commemorative plaque at the shelter.

For more information, please contact the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA at (518) 828-6044 or info@cghs.org.

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Coton de Tulear

Dog of the Month

The Coton de Tulear, also known as the “Royal Dog of Madagascar”, is a hardy and sturdy small white companion dog. The Coton De Tulear is an attractive, intelligent little dog with a long white cottony coat. They are slightly longer than they are tall with dark pigmentation, giving them sparkling button nose and eyes and a very appealing expression. They are happy and energetic, and at times boisterous but never demanding.

The Coton de Tulear is naturally clownish and lighthearted, as well as calm and easygoing. The breed possesses a remarkable gentle, sympathetic awareness to those around and is known for expressing unique vocalization.
The Coton de Tuléar has a medium-to-long, fluffy, cotton-like coat that is considered hair rather than fur. It is a non-shedding breed with low dander and is considered hypoallergenic. When it is a puppy, it may shed its puppy coat. Like the poodles, Maltese or the Havanese, this breed has very low allergic effects. Matted hair is common for this breed and should be removed through daily brushing and combing. While their origins may lie in pest control on board trading ships, the Coton has enjoyed centuries as a companion dog, thriving on human company. They are still a very capable watchdog, joyfully alerting their human family to anything happening around them, and will enjoy fun training as well as snuggling on laps. The Coton is very suitable for first time owners – you’ll need to enjoy grooming, be happy to get out for one or two walks a day and be interested in training both for obedience and fun tricks. Better with older children or a child-free family as very small children can mistake the cute Coton for a toy, which no dog appreciates. *purina.co.uk.com*

PAWOSCOPES

Monthly Dog & Cat Pawoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Leo
July 23–August 22

BOTH-A Leo pet is strong, magnanimous, and playful. Leo pets want to lead, have lots of energy, and—like their totem, the lion—have their “pride.” They also possess natural abilities, are lively and energetic, cannot be told what to do, are fiercely protective of their dens, and like to be noticed. Leo pets love to be the center of attention in any situation.

DOGS-Leo is the sign of the king, queen, performer, and lion. Leo canines don’t like competition; they prefer being the main character in a household that worships them and caters to their every need. They might also adore being groomed and pampered and look forward to a trip to the doggy spa Whether out on a hike or strolling through downtown, these celebrity pups will make you look like a star.

CATS-Born under the fixed fire sign Leo, ruled by the vitality-bringing sun, your outgoing kitty loves attention. Whether they seem to light up anytime you take a picture or they soak up all the attention bestowed upon them by visitors, they’ll relish the spotlight as if they’re the feline version of JLo or Kylie Jenner (both Leo ladies, of course). Your little Lion is sure to be playful, lighthearted, and entertaining—all while exuding an air of regality.
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RAW DIETS for CATS and DOGS

Only the Best Farm-Fresh Natural Ingredients

State of Nature sources only the best farm-to-table ingredients from farms local to their kitchen in New York's Hudson Valley, and, to ensure that their standards for purity, quality, and humane practices are met, they personally pick up their ingredients straight from the farm. That local sourcing with no middleman involved in processing makes for lightning-fast production and super-fresh food. From farm to freezer in less than a day!

Available in 2oz and 8oz burgers or 1lb and 5lb chubs, vacuum-sealed for freshness, State of Nature makes it easy to feed your pet a complete and balanced farm-fresh diet designed for optimum health. Available proteins: Beef, Beef Tripe, Chicken, Duck, Lamb, Mackerel, Rabbit, Turkey